THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The oral suspension of nimesulide is permitted to be marketed in many countries including India.

(b) The expert opinion of Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB), a statutory body under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, was sought by the Hon'ble Delhi High Court in December, 2002 during the hearing of a Public Interest Litigation. The recommendations of DTAB were filed before the Hon'ble Court wherein DTAB had opined that there was no ground for banning of nimesulide for adult or pediatric use.

(c) Recently use of nimesulide has been suspended in Ireland and Singapore. Nimesulide is currently under focused surveillance in India in the National Pharmacovigilance Programme. So far, no report of adverse drug reaction has been received on the use of nimesulide in the country to necessitate a review.

European Commission report on trafficking of spurious medicines

†1420. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the Report of European Commission regarding growth in the trafficking of spurious medicines in India;

(b) if so, the charges leveled in this report;

(c) whether Government agree with the facts given in the said report;

(d) if not, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(e) whether Government have contradicted the aforesaid report and if so, the basis for contradicting this report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) There was a news report pertaining to European Commission relating to counterfeit drugs.

Subsequently the report entitled "Summary of Community Customs Activities on Counterfeit And Piracy" was seen in the European Commission website. This report deals with custom seizures in European Union countries of various categories of institutes including medicines, related to infringement of intellectual property rights. Medicines from very small portion of the seized articles and some of that, a certain percentage, was reported to be from India.

European Commission was subsequently contacted for more details, but these have not been received so far.

It is to be noted that the report deals with intellectual property violation and not spurious drugs as such.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi